

In regard to the early publication of the results of the English School Leaving Certificate Examination, I think that you are right when you say that we should do all that we could to expedite the publication of the results. I shall request the Director to arrange accordingly.

In regard to the two present courses of studies, you seem to say that the vernacular course should be abolished. The next speaker is going to deal with it, and I shall give my reply after hearing him.

In regard to the establishment of a poor house, I have told a Member already that I do not think that any such institution could be run efficiently by the State. Government can only consider the question of aiding quasi-public bodies that undertake such work.

You will be glad to learn that cheap designs are being prepared, both for English and vernacular school buildings. They are being prepared by the Chief Engineer in consultation with the Director of Public Instruction, and Government are awaiting them from the Chief Engineer, with estimates of cost. The Government are aware of the importance of the matter, and it will receive their early attention.

You say that school fees should be raised, that the minimum pay of the teachers should be increased, that the Managers should be compelled to contribute a share to the Teachers' Provident Fund, and that, if they do not do so, the Government should make up the balance. The Head Masters' Conference has dealt with these subjects and its resolutions are now under the consideration of the Director. I shall remember what you have said in dealing with the questions.

113. Reconstruction of the Education Department.

Mr. V. Parameswaran Tampi (Member, Municipal Council, Mavelikara) referred to the appointment of several Committees by Government such as the Educational Expenditure Committee and the Curricula Revision Committee, with a view to reform the educational system of the State, but deplored the absence of any attempt on the part of the Government or the people to find out a solution for the problem of unemployment and the consequent degeneration among the young men of the country who passed the public examinations. One of the main factors that contributed to such a state of affairs was the want of facilities for imparting industrial education in schools and the absence of any means to develop the vocational side of education. The Member urged that instruction in one or other useful industry should be given along with the usual courses of study in every school. It was the prime duty of Government to impart elementary education. There could not be much harm if Government left higher education in the hands of private agencies, retaining supervision alone in their hands. The advancement of the backward classes also devolved on Government and one of the ways by which that could be accomplished was to make elementary education compulsory and free. In regard to secondary education, it was pointed out that it was undesirable to have two sets of Middle Schools, viz., the English and the vernacular. It would be well if this parallel system could be done away with and Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools established in their stead where arrangements could be made for making vernacular the principal language and English subsidiary and compulsory, as also for training pupils in useful industrial pursuits. The Member advocated co-education of boys and girls in the primary grade. He observed that the system under which pupils had to select their optional subjects when they got to Form V had a pernicious effect on their future education, as a pupil of Form V could not be expected to have reached a stage of mental development when he could choose the optional subject best suited to his tastes and inclinations. The Member next pointed out the necessity for at least one European Professor to teach English in the College.

He then criticised the unwholesome policy of appointing the Principal of the Arts College as the Director of Public Instruction. The proper person to fill the post of the Director was one who, in addition to his having an adequate working

knowledge and experience of the educational institutions of the State, possessed up-to-date information about the different educational systems abroad. A son of the soil with these qualifications should be selected and deputed to study the different educational systems prevalent in advanced countries like America, Germany and Japan, so that he might qualify himself to fill the place of the Director when that place fell vacant.

The Member next dwelt on the desirability of improving women's education in the State. Except in the case of primary schools, the system of allowing boys and girls to study together in the same institution should never be allowed. Where the strength of girl pupils did not fall short of fifty, a separate school for them should invariably be established.

Dewan's reply.—You have referred to many important matters connected with education. I cannot give you an off-hand reply. You have referred to the need for compulsory primary education, to the co-education of boys and girls in primary schools, to Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools, and to the abolition of the present parallel system of English and vernacular schools. You have also said that boys should not be allowed to select their optional subjects in Form V, and you insist on the appointment of a European English Professor in His Highness the Maha Raja's College. Government agree with you on the last point, and they are endeavouring their best to secure the services of a European Professor to teach English, but they have not succeeded so far. All your representations will receive careful consideration at the hands of Government.

114. The present system of education in Travancore, its defects and remedies.

Mr. K. M. Mamman Mappillai (Member, Municipal Council, Tiruvalla) began by making a reference to the last Educational Conference and observed that the allegation that the non-official members who served on it were not proper representatives was unfounded. No objection was taken when the members for the Conference were selected by the Government. The main reason alleged against the selection was that the members were mostly managers of aided schools. But managers of schools were the persons largely conversant with matters educational, and were therefore the best representatives for such a conference, and the decisions arrived at at the conference were the results of mature deliberation.

Referring to the recent enhancement of school fees, the Member observed that the allegation that that enhancement was effected on the recommendation of the managers of schools at the Educational Conference was unfounded, since the managers themselves had nothing to gain by such enhancement. He also remarked that the agitation set up in certain quarters against the increase of fees was not genuine. No reform, he said, could be effected without adequate funds and the enhancement of school fees was one of the ways by which additional funds could be found for the expansion of education. Enhancement of fees was no new phenomenon and there had been no such agitation on previous occasions. At the time of Dr. Mitchell the fee of Re. 1 per mensem was suddenly raised to Rs. 3 per mensem and there was no protest whatsoever. It could, therefore, be seen that the students' strike was not really due to the enhancement of school fees.

The Member then pleaded for equal treatment being accorded to departmental and grant-in-aid schools in certain essential matters. The existence of grant-in-aid schools, he said, was a great advantage to Government. The cost per pupil in a Government school was Rs. 8, against Rs. 4 only in an aided institution. Aided school education was thus decidedly cheaper. The Government had long ago insisted on the opening of a new school, only when it was not detrimental to the interests of any existing school. That wholesome principle was not followed by the Department recently, and so a definite ruling was requested.

Speaking on the question of the medical inspection of school children, the Member said that the proposal to levy fees from boys in aided schools to meet the cost of medical inspection was unfair, and pleaded for equal treatment in respect of Government and aided schools.